



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, November 12th, 2020; 7:00 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

**Call to Order**

The regular November 2020 meeting of the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (Commission or ANC 2B) was called to order by Chair Daniel Warwick at 7:02 pm.

**Introduction of Commissioners**

The Commissioners identified their single member districts (SMDs). Present were: Matthew Sampson (2B01), Daniel Warwick (2B02), Aaron Landry (2B04), Randy Downs (2B05), Mike Silverstein (2B06), Kari Cunningham (2B07), Beverly Schwartz (2B08), and Ed Hanlon (2B09).

**Announcements and Public Comments**

**Update from Councilmember Brooke Pinto**

Councilmember Brooke Pinto gave an update from her office.

**Update from the District Department of Transportation regarding the 16th Street NW Bus Lanes Project**

Spring Worth, a Project Manager for the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and Andrew DeFrank, a Community Engagement Specialist for DDOT, gave an update regarding the 16th Street NW Bus Lanes Project.

**Commissioner Announcements**

*There were not any commissioner announcements.*

**Other Public Announcements and General Comments or Future Agenda Items**

Nick DelleDonne, the President of the Dupont East Civic Action Association (DECAA); Andrew Huff, the Associate Director of Member and Government Relations for the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID); Susan Volman, the Treasurer of the Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA); and a local resident gave other public announcements and general comments or future agenda items.

**Alcoholic Beverage Control Board Agenda**

Sushi Taro – Application for a Substantial Change to the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “C” Restaurant License at 1503 17th Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

Safeway – Application for Renewal of the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “B” Full Service Grocery License at 1701 Corcoran Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

Streets Market – Application for Renewal of the Establishment’s Retailer’s Class “B” Full Service Grocery License at 1255 22nd Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

**Zoning, Preservation, and Development Agenda**

1725 Church Street NW – Application for a Special Exception from the Lot Occupancy Requirements to Construct a New Porch Addition with Entry Stairs to an Existing Attached Principal Dwelling Unit

Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the owners of 1725 Church Street NW, the applicants for Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) application #20367, are seeking a special exception from the lot occupancy requirements to construct a new porch addition with entry stairs to their existing attached principal dwelling unit,

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B, in November of 2020, reviewed the revised architectural plans, elevations, and color photographs, and received a presentation on the project using the materials submitted to BZA by the applicants in October of 2020 (Exhibit #16),

WHEREAS, ANC 2B’s Zoning, Preservation, and Development (ZPD) Committee also reviewed these plans on November 4th, 2020 and did not find any reason to oppose the relief being requested,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that the applicants have proactively worked to engage neighboring properties and have received letters of support from adjacent neighbors on both sides of the property where relief is being sought, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the relief sought is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the zoning regulations and zoning maps and will not tend to adversely affect the use of neighboring properties.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports BZA application #20367 for 1725 Church Street NW as presented in November of 2020.

1328 16th Street NW – Demolishing the 1980 Annex of First Baptist Church and Building a 7-Story and Penthouse Mixed-Use Building in its Place. A Secondary Project Consists of Facade Alterations to a Small Portion of the 2nd and 3rd Floors of the Drake Apartment Building, Which is Part of the Complex.

Commissioner Landry moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the applicant representing 1328 16th Street NW in Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) application #21-051 is proposing to demolish the 1980 annex of the First Baptist Church and build a 7-story and penthouse mixed-used building in its place with a secondary project consisting of façade alterations to a small portion of the second and third floors of the adjacent Drake apartment building,

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B reviewed the submission to HPRB dated October 28th, 2020 and received a presentation by the applicant,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Zoning, Preservation, and Development (ZPD) Committee also reviewed the same submission and received a presentation on November 4th, 2020 and determined that the submission is noncontroversial and did not have any opposition from the committee or from meeting attendees, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B appreciates that additional units of housing are being produced in a manner that supports preservation of the contributing structure of the Sixteenth Street Historic District and determined that there is no adverse impact to the 16th Street NW corridor with the concept.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project as proposed in the applicant's submission to HPRB dated October 28th, 2020.

### **Public Space Committee Agenda**

Public Space Application by Swahili Village / The Consulate for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 23 Tables and 46 Seats at 1990 M Street NW

Commissioner Silverstein moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion. Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add the following language to the resolution:

*WHEREAS, ANC 2B is concerned that the proposed sidewalk café does not provide ten feet of sidewalk width for pedestrian passage.*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B opposes the application for a permanent sidewalk café at this time.*

Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 7-1-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports the concept of streateries to help existing restaurants and other licensed establishments to survive the economic challenges of the COVID-19 public health emergency,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports allowing these establishments to use sidewalk and street public space for outdoor dining at a time when indoor space is limited by public health concerns,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has advocated for allowing streateries to continue to operate on a temporary basis until restaurants are once again able to utilize 100% of their indoor space capacity,

WHEREAS, Swahili Village / The Consulate, located at 1990 M Street NW, shares a busy pedestrian block with the Honduran Consulate next door, a McDonald's several doors down, and other establishments, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is concerned that the proposed sidewalk café does not provide ten feet of sidewalk width for pedestrian passage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B opposes the application for a permanent sidewalk café at this time.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports a temporary streatery that would involve using one lane of M Street NW currently used for on-street parking as part of a streatery configuration that would also provide adequate pedestrian passageway and the ANC will work with the licensee and the Public Space Committee to agree on specific dimensions and materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B believes that working to reach an agreement on the configuration of this temporary streatery should be of the highest priority.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED that once the configuration of the temporary streatery is agreed to, ANC 2B will offer to work with the applicant on configuration of a permanent

sidewalk cafe that could take the place of the streatory once the establishment is permitted to operate indoors at 100% capacity once again.

Public Space Application by Mi Casa to Add Furniture / Equipment to the Existing Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 24 Tables, 58 Seats, and 2 Umbrellas at 1647 20th Street NW

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2B supports the public space application for 1647 20th Street NW as it is a continuation of an existing condition.

Public Space Application by Banneker for a New, Un-Enclosed Sidewalk Café with 17 Tables, 56 Seats, and 11 Umbrellas at 1315 16th Street NW

Commissioner Downs moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Silverstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Banneker Hotel has submitted a public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café with 17 tables, 56 seats, and 11 umbrellas at 1315 16th Street NW,

WHEREAS, the proposed location is within single-member district 2B05,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that sidewalk cafes are an important element in the urban ambiance and charm of the Dupont Circle community, while also promoting safety and economic development,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that public space use is a privilege, not a right,

WHEREAS, the proposed area for the sidewalk cafe currently contains landscaping, statues, and a Pepco vault,

WHEREAS, in May of 2018, ANC 2B supported a similar public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk café at 1315 16th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, while the proposed sidewalk cafe does not meet the ANC's published Public Space Guidelines, which state that sidewalk cafes should allow for a minimum of ten feet of sidewalk clearance, the proposed sidewalk cafe would continue to maintain the current eight feet of pedestrian passageway without worsening the pedestrian passageway.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Banneker Hotel's public space application for a new, un-enclosed sidewalk cafe at 1315 16th Street NW, provided that there is no loss of existing pedestrian passageway.

## **General Agenda**

### **Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project**

Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Downs seconded the motion. Chair Warwick moved to adopt a proposed amendment to the resolution to add the following language to the resolution:

*ANC 2B also urges the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to continue studying potential traffic impacts of the deck-over portion of the project on 19th Street NW as well as potential safety implications of curbless streets.*

Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion for the amendment, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The final motion was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2B appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 65% design plans for the Connecticut Avenue Streetscape and Deck-Over Project following a presentation of the design by the project team at the ANC's October 2020 meeting. ANC 2B continues to be excited by the streetscape and deck-over project and reaffirms our enthusiastic support of the project.

ANC 2B appreciates that the project team has responded to community input on the project from previous public meetings and is supportive of the re-inclusion of protected bike lanes along the streetscape.

ANC 2B requests the following adjustments or continued considerations to the streetscape portion of the project:

- Reduce road lane widths to the minimum permissible for an arterial in order to support expanded sidewalk space along the corridor,
- Consider a design which fully separates protected bike lanes from bus loading zones, such as through the utilization of floating bus stops at key locations,
- Consider opportunities for expanded sidewalks and sidewalk cafes in areas along the corridor through the reallocation of some metered parking, and
- Continue allocating appropriate space for loading zones.

ANC 2B requests the following adjustments or continued considerations to the deck-over portion of the project:

- Continue working closely with the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID) to ensure their future place management of the deck-over is set up for success with provisions for utilities and other services in order to support their vision for the plaza,

- Ensure adequate programmable space is available for large events on the plaza,
- Continue exploring creative ways for the exhaust hole to be less damaging to the plaza's aesthetic, and
- Consider shading elements which take up less plaza ground space than currently proposed such as canopy poles.

ANC 2B also urges the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to continue studying potential traffic impacts of the deck-over portion of the project on 19th Street NW as well as potential safety implications of curbsless streets.

Discussion and Consideration of a Resolution Regarding the DC Public Restroom Initiative

Commissioner Cunningham moved to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Schwartz seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Department of General Services (DGS) created a survey for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) and business improvement districts (BIDs) to complete in reference to the potential placement of a public restroom in their respective communities,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B will complete the survey created by DGS and has been committed to the placement of public restrooms in the District since 2017 when the DC Public Restroom Initiative began,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that the use of an anonymous survey as a means to collect feedback regarding public restroom locations from ANCS, BIDs, and Clean Teams is misplaced and that surveys should allow for responses from community stakeholders individually rather than from specified pre-selected entities,

WHEREAS, potential placement of a public restroom may benefit multiple populations, including seniors, the unhoused, tourists, and others and is supported by many citizens and community organizations,

WHEREAS, in speaking with community members and business leaders, there is some concern related to who will be responsible for the maintenance, oversight, and upkeep of the restrooms and the costs and labor incurred to do so,

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle community may have limited capacity to perform the above mentioned functions, needing additional resources to provide the eyes and ears during the day and an additional security presence, similar to what has been coordinated in other American cities which have implemented public restrooms, and

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle community previously had a public restroom but it was closed because of public health and safety concerns, namely illicit drug use, prostitution, and lack of general upkeep.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B formally requests that the Department of General Services create a budget line item to ensure proper oversight, monitoring, and maintenance for every public restroom to be piloted in the District of Columbia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ANC 2B looks forward to working with community members and the Department of General Services to ensure that seniors, tourists, the unhoused, and others are able to access clean, accessible, and safe public restrooms in the District of Columbia.

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Sreatery for Del Sur Cafe on Hopkins Street NW

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

**Administrative Matters**

Approval of the ANC's Regular October 2020 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Landry moved to approve the ANC's regular October 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 8-0-0).

**Adjournment**

Chair Warwick adjourned the meeting at 9:49 pm.